

A Short Teaching on Social Justice
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

The LORD then said:” What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood(s) cries out to me from the soil! ... the soil ... opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. Genesis 4:10f

The entirety of the dialog between God and Cain is quite something but we shall focus on only this small part... Listen... Objectively, (1) What have you done (reflect) – as a point of objective fact; (2) Listen, to the effects of your action; and (3) Respond.

Reflect. A man is dead. He was killed by another. This is a serious matter. Even from the soil he cries out to me says the Lord. No dissipation, no time, no Para-legal summary judgment can stop the voice of the oppressed.

Listen. The bloods (plural, Genesis Rabba) cries out to God... AND TO YOU, MAN. How does it cry, the bloods, that is every soul that will not be born of Abel. The blood cries out to our intellect and will... our affect and our soul... what does it say? Hear my story. Know my loss. Judge rightly.

Respond. Even the soil. Even SOIL knows to dignify the man’s death.

It opens its mouth to receive the blood of man – that is to return to the earth from whence it came. Again later in history “but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out (upon the ground - my edit). John 19:34.

Even soil knows better to treat the death of a man by another man as a serious matter. Better training and tactics would be a good start.

MAN - “The shooting was a reasonable use of force given the totality of the circumstances”

GOD - What have you done? Listen: your brother's blood(s) cries out to me from the soil!

Victor Arango of Lake Worth 24 y/o Thursday, June 7 2012.